

**CITY OF MIAMI BEACH**  
**Office of the City Manager**  
**Letter to Commission No. 196-2005**

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**To:** Mayor David Dermer and  
Members of the City Commission

**Date:** July 26, 2005

**From:** Jorge M. Gonzalez  
City Manager



**Subject: Parks & Recreation Department Update**

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**90 & 62 = Happy Birthday!** The 62<sup>nd</sup> annual Playground Revue made a bow to the City of Miami Beach on its 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday with two performances at the Jackie Gleason Theater of the Performing Arts Thursday, July 14, 2005. Summer Campers from kindergarteners through 12<sup>th</sup> graders danced and acted out tunes celebrating the City's anniversary. A WSVN-TV News crew opened each show with a recorded "Happy Birthday", news anchor Craig Stevens did the evening show celebrity emcee honors and coverage of the show appeared on Ch. 7's 11 p.m. news. Please see the attached cover photograph and news story from the Miami Herald Neighbors section of Sunday, July 24, 2005.

**Pros Choice:** Several celebrities have been spotted recently at Miami Beach Parks & Recreational facilities. Comedian turned movie actor Jamie Fox has been shooting hoops at the Scott Rakow Center. NHL Hall of Famer Sergei Federov seems to like pushing the puck around the Scott Rakow Youth Center Ice Rink. NBA stars Michael Jordan and Penny Hardaway, Eagles quarterback Mike McMahon, former Miami Heat player Keith Askins and Buffalo Bills former linebacker Cornelius Bennett, as well as Cedric the Entertainer were among July players at the Miami Beach Golf Club.

**Recreation Review Continues to Grow:** It took a record 36 pages to hold all the information, pictures and advertising in the Fall 2005 Recreation Review. The magazine is being mailed to more than 56,000 Miami Beach homes during the third and fourth weeks of July.

**Youth Sports Expo Expands to Include More City Information:** City departments will staff information booths and put on displays at the August 13, 2005 Youth Sports Expo scheduled from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Flamingo Park. Expansion of the traditional Parks & Recreation Athletic League Team registration event is designed to help residents learn more about their City and to more easily access City services.

**Art Debuts at North Shore:** The North Shore Youth Center held its first Summer Art Exhibit Friday, July 22, 2005. Art and sculpture created by summer campers and Recreation staff reminded us all just how creative our children can be. Of special interest is a City logo mosaic composed of photographs of our campers. Some photos of the exhibit are attached and much of the art will be displayed at the August 13, 2005 Youth Sports Expo.

**Adult Leagues Off To Great Start:** Adult league basketball and softball have returned to Miami Beach and there are already plans for expansion. Six adult league basketball teams ranging from 5-to-12 members each play Tuesday and Thursday evenings at the North Shore Youth Center. Seven co-ed teams of 10-to-15 members each make up the softball league that plays Tuesday and Thursday evenings at Flamingo Park. Each league will play ten games and playoffs during the July through September season. A volleyball adult league will begin in mid-August along Ocean Drive.

***Please mark your calendar for these upcoming Parks & Recreation Department programs:***

Youth Sports Expo, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Saturday, August 13, 2005, Flamingo Park  
Movie in the Pool, Friday, August 20, 2005, Scott Rakow Youth Center Pool  
Free Fundays, Sunday, October 2, 2005, Flamingo Pool

You are cordially invited to visit our facilities and experience firsthand the recreational programs that offer something for every member of the family.

Should you have additional questions, please contact Kevin Smith at (305) 673-7730.

JMG/RCM/KS/JM/jm

c: Robert C. Middaugh, Assistant City Manager  
Kevin Smith, Parks & Recreation Director  
Julio Magrisso, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director

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# NEIGHBORS

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The Miami Herald

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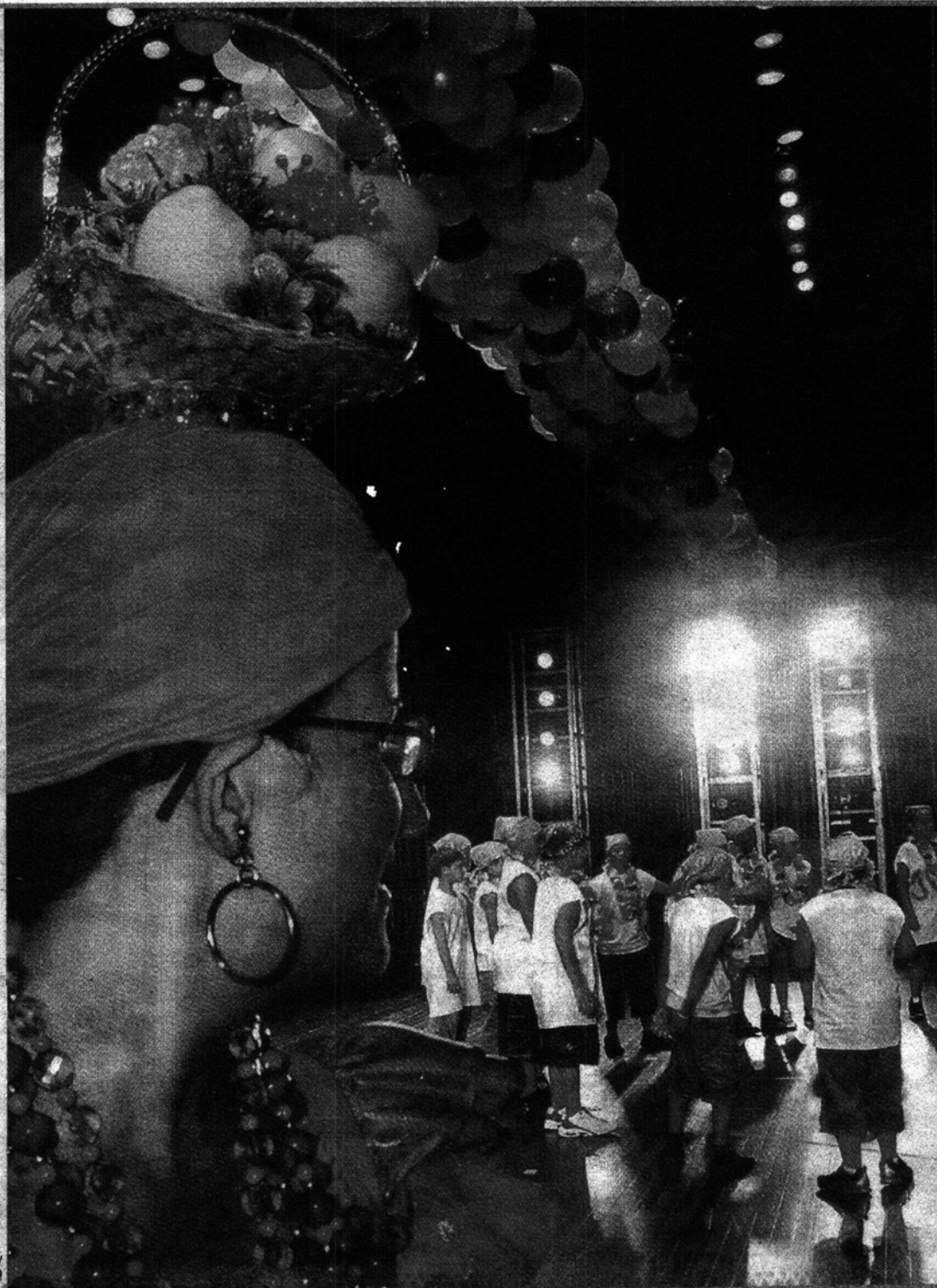
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## BACKSTAGE PASS

Cindy Cassanova, facility manager for Miami Beach Parks and Recreation, is in costume as she peers from the wings during a show put on by campers at the city's parks.

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ANDREA TORRES/  
FOR THE HERALD

## MIAMI BEACH

# Summer campers hit stage in Playground Revue

■ A filled Jackie Gleason Theater rocked with the enthusiasm of 1,500 campers in the 62nd annual production of the 'Playground Revue.'

BY ANDREA TORRES  
atorres@herald.com

On a recent Thursday at the Jackie Gleason Theater of the Performing Arts, Miami Beach campers put on their annual summer show featuring songs and dance.

The *Playground Revue* production, held July 14, may as well have been subtitled *Scream*.

The theater was filled with the nonstop blare of boisterous kids, as well as their proud parents, for performances by all of the 1,500 campers in the city's summer camp program.

An afternoon show featured the "Pee Wees," or 4- to 6-year-old campers, and the evening show featured "Juniors and Teens," ages 7 through 18.

At the evening show, the girls got to wear lipstick, fake eyelashes, glitter and neon hair pieces. The boys — who screamed the loudest as a group — sported T-shirts, guayaberas and carnival hats.

Hundreds of balloons, and two large inflatable cakes

marking the city's 90th birthday, decorated the stage.

Taking the stage in turns by camp, the girls danced and lip-synched like pop divas while the boys pretended to be rap stars and football players.

The atmosphere in the audience was equal parts Broadway show and pep rally. Wearing pajamas and pigtailed, 10-year-old Elizabeth Brown and about 30 more girls screamed "NSP!" — the acronym for North Shore Park — over and over, as fast as they could.

Elizabeth's face turned red. The veins on her forehead and neck swelled, and she was forced to catch her breath.

"I just can't wait to get on that stage. We are so ready. All the practice is just filling my stomach with butterflies," Elizabeth said. "Our show is going to be the best one."

She would have to wait awhile. In the Junior and Teen shows, there were 21 performances over the course of two hours. The NSP performance — of *Girls Just Want to Have Fun* — was slated to go on 15th.

As the 21st and last group took the stage, Dawn Carrillo sat in the audience and vigorously pointed to her daughter, a camper at Scott Rakow Youth Center. With her 8-month-old son in her left



**ON STAGE:** Melsheree Reid, center, as 'Cuban Pete' and other cast members from the North Shore Park Youth Center performed together in the 62nd annual *Playground Revue* at the Jackie Gleason Theater.

arm, she deftly grabbed a camera and snapped pictures of her daughter.

"This camp has been an adventure for her," Carrillo said.

Backstage throughout the night, staff members shouted with pride. "Good job, guys!" was a typical sentiment. Some

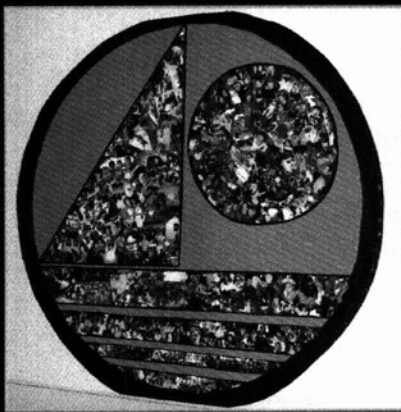
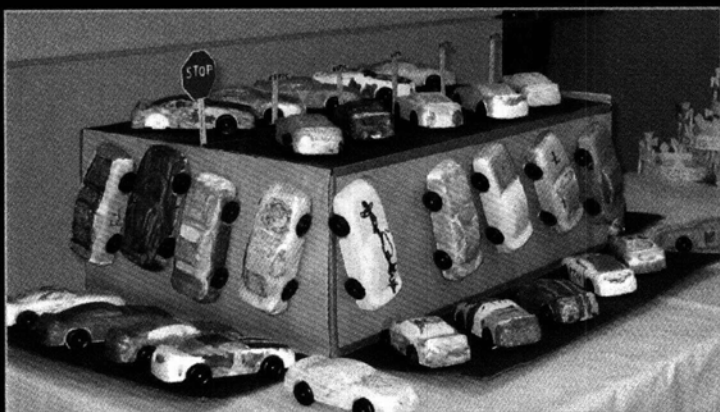
even got teary-eyed. The *Playground Revue* is a proud tradition for the city's camps, and this was the 62nd annual staging.

"I remember the excitement I felt when I was a camper, and used to participate in the show," said Ellen Vargas, *Revue* director and

facility manager. "Most of our staff knows that this is the highlight of the summer because they too participated in the summer camps of Miami Beach."

"Everyone works hard at this because we know this will stay in their hearts and memories forever."





North Shore Park Youth Center - Friday, July 22, 2005



ART EXHIBIT